

## A Message from the Director

Greetings!

One of the things I enjoy most about being DEQ's Director is the opportunity to meet and talk with Idahoans about our state's environment. It is very clear to me that our citizens, businesses, and local governments care deeply about our environment and want to do all they can to help protect public health and our natural resources.



To assist Idahoans in understanding DEQ's role in protecting our state's environment, we have developed this brief overview of who we are and what we do.

DEQ is committed to partnering with you to sustain Idaho's environment. We welcome your input as we work together to protect human health and preserve Idaho's resources for generations to come.

Toni Hardesty  
DEQ Director

**DEQ envisions a future for Idaho's citizens wherein quality of life is enhanced by the quality of the environment. We will assess, sustain, preserve, and enhance environmental qualities in partnership with communities and businesses and in concert with the economic vitality of the state.**

## How to Contact DEQ

### State Office

1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0502

*Counties of Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington*

### Boise Regional Office

1445 N. Orchard, Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0550

**Cascade Satellite Office:** (208) 382-6808

*Counties of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone*

### Coeur d'Alene Regional Office

2110 Ironwood Pkwy., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1422

### Kellogg Superfund Project Office:

(208) 783-5781

*Counties of Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton*

### Idaho Falls Regional Office

900 N. Skyline, Suite B, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 528-2650

*Counties of Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce*

### Lewiston Regional Office

1118 "F" St., Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-4370

**Grangeville Satellite Office:** (208) 983-0808

*Counties of Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power*

### Pocatello Regional Office

444 Hospital Way, #300, Pocatello, ID 83204  
(208) 236-6160

**Soda Springs Satellite Office:** (208) 547-1940

*Counties of Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls*

### Twin Falls Regional Office

601 Pole Line Rd., Suite 2, Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 736-2190

We're on the Web at [www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)

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## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:

*Who we are and  
what we do*



**DEQ's mission is to protect human health and preserve the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water for use and enjoyment today and in the future.**

## Who is DEQ?

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is...

...**a state government department.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is DEQ's *federal* counterpart.

...**a regulatory agency.** DEQ has primary responsibility for enforcing the federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund); and Safe Drinking Water Act.

...**a team.** DEQ is staffed by highly skilled scientists, engineers, technicians, and administrators.

...**a partner.** DEQ works closely with a wide range of private and public sector groups, including EPA, other state agencies, the Board of Environmental Quality, local and tribal governments, businesses and industries, business and community organizations, and citizens.

## Four Key Responsibilities

**Monitor.** DEQ monitors air and water quality and assesses land to assure that state and federal health-based standards are met.

**Permit.** DEQ issues permits to facilities that emit pollutants into the air, water, and soil to limit the volume of pollutants that may be safely emitted.

**Inspect.** DEQ inspects pollution sources to assure compliance with environmental standards and, if necessary, takes enforcement action.

**Assist.** DEQ facilitates compliance with the requirements of environmental laws, rules, and regulations through education and outreach and technical guidance and assistance.

## How DEQ Works to Protect...

### ... Air Quality

- ✓ **Monitors, collects, and analyzes air data.** Accurate data are important to assure that we are meeting air quality standards.



- ✓ **Issues permits.** Permits limit the amount of pollutants that facilities and industries may emit into the air as a regular part of their business processes.
- ✓ **Provides technical assistance.** DEQ assists businesses and industries in meeting regulatory requirements.
- ✓ **Coordinates air quality improvement efforts.** DEQ works with communities, agencies, and other groups to monitor and regulate widespread sources of air pollution, such as smoke and dust that impact large geographical areas.
- ✓ **Conducts compliance and enforcement activities.** Staff regularly inspect sources of air emissions. Most facilities willingly comply with air quality regulations. When necessary, however, DEQ may conduct enforcement activities to obtain compliance.

### ... Water Quality

- ✓ **Monitors, collects, and analyzes water quality data.** DEQ routinely measures and assesses levels of pollutants in rivers, lakes, and streams.
- ✓ **Develops plans to improve degraded waters.** When water quality fails to meet state water quality standards, DEQ works with communities, industry, and citizen groups to develop water quality improvement plans known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). These plans outline the actions needed to restore impaired water bodies to a healthy fishable, swimmable condition.

- ✓ **Protects drinking water.** Working with public health districts, DEQ helps public drinking water systems comply with state requirements, conducts sampling surveys and on-site visits, and reviews water system plans and specifications.
- ✓ **Provides grants and low-interest loans.** These loans help public drinking water and wastewater systems plan, construct, update, and maintain their facilities.
- ✓ **Provides technical assistance, issues wastewater permits, and conducts compliance and enforcement activities.** Permits limit the amount of wastewater that facilities and industries may land-apply as a regular part of their operations.



### ...Land Quality

- ✓ **Oversees management of hazardous wastes.** DEQ provides technical assistance, issues permits, conducts inspections of facilities that generate hazardous waste, and takes corrective action when necessary to assure that hazardous wastes are managed and disposed of properly and safely.
- ✓ **Oversees management of solid wastes.** In conjunction with counties and public health districts, DEQ oversees the development and operation of solid waste disposal sites.
- ✓ **Oversees cleanup of contaminated sites.** DEQ identifies contaminated sites such as inactive mines, mine waste-contaminated areas, and properties contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks and solvents, and helps entities apply for grants to clean up contaminated sites.
- ✓ **Monitors activities at the Idaho National Laboratory.** DEQ also informs the public of how INL activities affect Idaho's environment, economy, and public health.